

NEWS

for immediate release



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services Department
1001 N. Central, Suite 550
Phoenix, AZ 85004
www.maricopa.gov/envsvc

January 8, 2002

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HIGH AIR POLLUTION ADVISORY FOR CARBON MONOXIDE IS IN EFFECT

County Encourages Residents to Carpool, Declares No-Burn Day

(Phoenix)— The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (MCESD) has issued a carbon monoxide (CO) High Air Pollution Advisory (HPA) from **10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, 2002 to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 9, 2002** for the entire Phoenix Metropolitan area. Residential fireplace use is prohibited, Valley residents are asked to take measures to help reduce pollution, and people with respiratory problems should limit outdoor exposure.

The National Weather Service has issued an air stagnation advisory, which may trigger higher levels of CO. Light winds and strong temperature inversions are causing pollution levels to increase. These weather conditions are forecasted to continue for the next 24 to 48 hours.

Today's HPA is a preventive measure to help avert air pollution from reaching unhealthy levels. Although the CO levels are not currently unhealthy, MCESD expects CO concentrations may increase. Predicting CO concentrations is not an exact science. The Department uses best judgment when declaring an HPA.

Health Effects: CO is a tasteless, odorless, colorless gas that interferes with the body's ability to use oxygen, even when there are no physical symptoms. CO comes from tailpipes but also comes from fireplaces and wood stoves. Those who have heart and/or respiratory health problems should minimize activity and take precautions.

During the HPA, Maricopa County is encouraging residents to do the following to help reduce pollution:

- Eliminate all unnecessary driving and/or combine trips.
- Ride the bus, carpool or telecommute.
- Do not use your fireplace or wood stove unless it is an EPA-approved fireplace or wood stove.
- Keep your tires inflated to proper levels and your car tuned.
- Change your oil every 3,000 to 5,000 miles.
- To find a carpool or vanpool partner, call Valley Metro at (602) 262-RIDE or register on line at sharetheride.com.

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For more information on High Air Pollution Advisories, call the Maricopa County Air Quality Update at (602) 506-6400, go to www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/AIR/airday.asp or call the Clean Air Hotline at 1-800-CLEAN-UP.

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